Readiness Assessment – What do you need to have in place to test with your MAC?

Trading partners should make it a priority to test early during calendar year 2011 with their Medicare Administrative Contractors (MACs) for the implementation of versions 5010 and D.0 transactions so as not to impact future Medicare claim processing. Trading partner testing for the 5010 base version may begin with your MACs on January 1, 2011. Testing with the 5010 errata version (5010A1) will be available for testing in April 2011. Successful testing with your MAC is required prior to being placed into production.

Prior to testing, trading partners shall ensure their billing service, clearinghouse, or software package has passed testing requirements for each transaction (testing with each Medicare contractor or a certification system that the Medicare contractor has accepted) and is using the same program/software to generate the transaction for all of their clients.

For details on Medicare testing requirements and protocols see the 5010 National Call presentation on Provider Outreach and Education – Transition Year Activities found at http://www.cms.gov/Versions5010andD0/downloads/OE_National_Presentation_12-8-10.pdf.

Trading partners are encouraged to review the following:
- Version 5010 and D.0. transaction resources on CMS' website: http://www.cms.gov/Versions5010andD0/,
- Educational Resources (MLN articles, fact sheets, readiness checklists, brochures, quick reference charts and guides, frequently asked questions, and transcripts from previous national provider calls) http://www.cms.gov/Versions5010andD0/40_Educational_Resources.asp#TopOfPage, and
- Dedicated HIPAA 5010/D.0 Project web page (technical documents and communications at national conferences) http://www.cms.gov/ElectronicBillingEDITrans/18_5010D0.asp .